SOME NEW BOOKS.

The Man whom the People Mean to Make the Next Chief Magistrate.

Among the biographies of Gen. Hancock which have recently appeared, two deserve particular attention. The memoir prepared by Col. Forney is of peculiar interest and value as regards those chapters which exhibit the political side of his subject's life, and especially the principles of reconstruction affirmed and carried out within the scope of his official discretion during Gen. Hancock's exercise of military command in Louisiana and Texas. On this branch of his theme, with which thoughtful men are especially concerned at the present juncture, Col. Forney is qualified to speak, and his treatment of the whole problem of reconstruction, as well as of the phase with which Gen. Hancock was connected, will commend itself to the earnest and candid reader. The other book to which we would direct notice at this time is the memoir compiled by the late Rev. D. X. Junkin, and recently revised, condensed, and completed by Mr. Frank H. Norton (Appletons). These two volumes, taken together, supply all the data needed to form a just conception of the man placed in nomination for the highest office which now is, or ever has been, conferred by the suffrages of a people. Neither work has much in common with the typical campaign biography, each being marked by a creditable degree of sobriety and self-restraint, as if the writer felt instinctively that a tone of fulsome laudation would jar upon the ear, and that plain words are best to set forth the clear record of a patriot, a soldier, and a gentleman.

Winfield Scott Hancock was born in February, 1824, in a small village in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, not many miles east of Norristown. He was of native American stock, his father, Benjamin Franklin Hancock, having been born in Philadelphia, and his grandfather, Richard Hancock, having, together with some twenty-five hundred American sailors, been incarcerated in an English prison during the war of 1812. Benjamin Franklin Hancock was a lawyer, having been admitted to the bar in Montgomery County in 1828, about which time he removed with his family to Norristown. In his early years at the bar he was appointed District Attorney, and he continued in the diligent practice of his profession until his death in 1867. His wife, the mother of Gen. Hancock, was a daughter of Edward Hoxworth, who had been a soldier in the Revolutionary war. It is pertinent to state that the political principles of the Hancock family were always, especially after the Presidency of John Adams, those of the anti-Federal or Democratic party. This fact did not prevent Benjamin Hancock from naming, by a patriotic impulse, one of his sons after Gen. Winfield Scott, who had borne so conspicuous a part in the then recent war of 1812-15 as to make him one of the most admired of American soldiers.

At an early age young Hancock was sent to Norristown Academy, which, in its day, was deemed an excellent school. It is perhaps worth noting that the boy organized a military company among his schoolmates, being chosen their Captain by acclamation; but it does not appear that all his leisure hours were devoted to imitation military exercises. He and his brother, we are told, collected quite an extensive cabinet of mineralogical and geological specimens, and were members of a scientific society, in which experiments were made in chemistry and natural philosophy. Another incident of his school days may properly be recorded, because it was one of those not unlikely to leave an impress on the mind. When young Winfield was a boy of 11 years a campaign newspaper was started in the town, and printers being hard to obtain, the lad went into the office, and helped on the cause by setting type, distributing, and even working the press. By the time the canvass was concluded he had become quite a printer, and was naturally led, by the business in which he had been engaged, to take a certain interest in the politics of his native State.

In 1840, at the age of sixteen, young Hancock entered the Military Academy at West Point. He passed the examination for admission respectably, not being extraordinarily advanced in scholarship, for he had not yet learned the importance of hard study. He has since expressed the opinion that it would have been better if he had not entered until he was eighteen, though we may remark in passing that his countrymen have seen no reason to concur in this modest judgment. Among the names of those cadets who were either classmates or contemporaries of Hancock's at the Academy are many who have since acquired remarkable distinction. Such are Gens. U. S. Grant, George B. McClellan, Franklin, William F. Smith, J. F. Reynolds, Rosecrans, Lyon, and others of the Union army, and Stonewall Jackson, Longstreet, Pickett, and E. K. Smith of the Confederate service. Hancock graduated in 1844, being brevetted Second Lieutenant in the Sixth Infantry. At the time of his graduation Gen. Scott, who had exhibited a warm interest in his namesake, asked him to what regiment he preferred being assigned, to which the young man replied: "The one which is stationed furthest west."

The company to which he was assigned was stationed at Fort Towson in the Indian country, near the Red River, whence our young soldier, and his companions, in the course of their military duty, made frequent [illegible] excursions into the neighboring [illegible] passed [illegible] country of Texas. Time [illegible] in this new and exhilarating life, and in June, 1846, Hancock received his commission as Second Lieutenant in a company of his regiment stationed on the frontier of Mexico, where the difficulties, which afterward terminated in the Mexican war, had already begun. The commander of Fort Washita, deeming Lieut. Hancock's services necessary at that post, declined to permit him to join his company, and it was not until after repeated applications to his superior officers and to the War Department that the young man was allowed to proceed to Mexico.

Hancock landed at Vera Cruz in season to join Gen. Pierce's column, which was about to march to reënforce Gen. Scott at Puebla. On this march there was no extended or heavy fighting, although a somewhat sharp encounter took place at the National Bridge, held and fortified by the Mexican forces. Hancock was in command of one of the companies detailed to charge and capture the bridge and its barricade, a movement which was successfully accomplished. At Puebla, which the column reached in season to accompany the army of Gen. Scott in its advance upon the Mexican capital, Hancock joined his regiment, of which he was the junior Lieutenant. We need not touch upon the incidents of the famous march that followed, reminding the reader that besides less important collisions there were four principal battles, namely Contreras, Cherubusco, Molino del Rey, and Chepultepec. At Cherubusco a charge was made upon a *tête du pont*, in which the commander of his company being severely wounded, his duties devolved upon Lieut. Hancock, a position which he continued to hold until after the army entered the city. He was brevetted First Lieutenant, "for gallant and meritorious conduct at Contreras and Cherubusco," and he took part in the assault upon the Mexican force entrenched behind stone walls at Molino del Rey—one of the latest instances which have occurred on this continent of troops moving at the double quick to the sound of music against an entrenched position. Of his conduct in this engagement, Capt. Hoffman, who commanded the Sixth Regiment, reported that "Hancock behaved in the handsomest manner."

With the exception of a brief interval of service with his regiment at the City of Toluca, Lieut. Hancock remained with the troops that occupied the Mexican capital until the American army was withdrawn. He was among the last to leave the city, and during the march to the coast he acted as Quartermaster and Commissary of his regiment. In the distribution of troops made after the return to the States, Hancock's regiment was assigned to a position on the upper Mississippi, where he continued to fill the position of Quartermaster. Here he remained until the spring of 1849, when he was granted a five month's leave of absence, and was thus enabled to revisit his home in Pennsylvania, from which he had been absent for five years. In the autumn of 1849 Lieut. Hancock rejoined his regiment, to which he had been appointed Adjutant, being now stationed at St Louis, and acting as aide-de-camp to the commander of the military department lying between the Indian country of the South and the British possessions. It was during his service here that Lieut. Hancock was married to Miss Almira Russell, daughter of Mr. Samuel Russell, a merchant of St. Louis. It is proper here to state that the union thus formed has proved one of the happiest. Two children were born of the marriage, one of whom, Russell, named after his maternal grandfather, is now living at the age of thirty.

In November, 1855, Lieut. Hancock was appointed Quartermaster, with the rank of Captain, and was ordered to Florida, where the Seminoles had broken out in active hostilities. The military operations against the Seminoles were exceptionally perplexing and difficult, and, of course, involved in frequent danger those who had charge of the important duty connected with the supplies. Hardly had the trouble in Florida been allayed when that series of agitations began which ultimately led to the disorders in Kansas. On the personal application of Gen. Harney, who had been transferred to that department, Capt. Hancock was ordered to Fort Leavenworth, where he remained until the end of March, 1858, when, the Kansas difficulty being settled, he was directed to accompany Gen. Harney's expedition to Utah. At Fort Bridger, Utah, Capt. Hancock reported for duty to Col. Andrews, who commanded his regiment, the Sixth, and by whom he was at once appointed regimental Quartermaster. The destination of this regiment was now changed by Gen. A. S. Johnston, who had discretionary power, to Benicia, Cal., and on Capt. Hancock devolved the task of supplying means for transportation and subsistence for the expedition on its long journey of 1,119 miles. An inspection of the report subsequently made by him to the Quartermaster-General, and giving all the details of this journey, sufficiently demonstrates the degree of vigilance, energy, and arduous toil which must have been exacted in its progress. Day and night it was incumbent on the Quartermaster to exercise constant watchfulness over his charge, and how efficiently the duty was fulfilled may be inferred from the fact that on the arrival of the expedition at Benicia its entire appurtenances were delivered actually in an improved condition and without any important loss or accident whatever.

Capt. Hancock was stationed at Los Angeles, Cal., when the secession of the Gulf States occurred, and he made early and earnest application to be relieved from duty on the Pacific coast, and to be transferred to the seat of war. The request being at length granted, he landed at New York in September, 1861, and without waiting even to visit his parents, within a few miles of whose home he passed en route, he reported himself at Washington for active duty. His abilities, and the importance of the services which he had already rendered, had been recognized by his former commanders, and with a view of profiting by his administrative and organizing qualities, they at first assigned him to the post of Chief Quartermaster on the staff of Gen. Robert Anderson, who had been placed in command of the Union forces in Kentucky. He was destined, however, to a more brilliant career, for, Gen. McClellan having proposed his name for the appointment of Brigadier-General, the commission was issued within a fortnight after his arrival in Washington, and Gen. Hancock at once bent all his energies to aid his new commander in the creation of the Army of the Potomac. We need not dwell upon the difficulty of transforming recruits into veterans, nor upon the skill and thoroughness with which the task was, in this case performed; we may merely note in passing, that throughout the war Gen. Hancock never commanded any but volunteer soldiers, and that they, and they only, share with him the credit of his victories.

It was during the winter of 1861-62, devoted by the Army of the Potomac to drilling and instruction in the art of war, that Gen. Hancock, through the exhibition of self-reliance, firmness, and address, succeeded in establishing such relations with his officers and men as thenceforward characterized his military career. It was his good fortune while inaugurating military authority and discipline to inspire, at the same time, so much good will and confidence that his name thereafter stirred the enthusiasm of his troops like the tones of a trumpet. Officers and men found him exact and unyielding in requiring subordination, and the prompt and faithful performance of duty, while sometimes, on the march or on the field of battle, he was impetuous and stern in the enforcement of his orders; but combined with these habitudes of command he displayed inflexible justice and impartiality, and a warm and generous appreciation of service well performed. He aimed to administer the affairs of his command with absolute impartiality; no man, of whatever rank in the service, ever preferred a complaint which did not receive thorough and prompt investigation at his hands, and it was a recognized fact that he was as swift to redress the wrongs of a private soldier as those of an officer in high position.

When the Army of the Potomac landed on the peninsula which became the theatre of the first grand operations of the war, Gen. Hancock's brigade was one of the most complete and effective of the whole force. At Williamsburg, where such of our troops as were engaged against the enemy's right met with repeated repulses, and at the close of the day had gained no substantial advantage, Gen. Hancock, with less than 2,000 men, fought and won an important action which resulted in the immediate evacuation of the town and its works by the enemy. Concerning Gen. Hancock's conduct in this affair, Gen. McClellan, in his published report, said: "Satisfied that the result of Hancock's engagement was to give us possession of the decisive point of the battle field, during the night I countermanded an order for the advance of the divisions of Sedgwick and Richardson.' In this fight was captured the first color taken by the Army of the Potomac, and it is right to state that so high an appreciation did Gen. McClellan have of Hancock's achievement that he personally thanked each regiment under the latter's command, and directed that they should be honored by having the name "Williamsburg" emblazoned on their colors.

The next close encounter of Hancock's brigade with the enemy was in the action of Garnet's Hill, which occurred on the same day during which the main portion of the army was so severely defeated at Gaines's mill. "Hooker's fight," says Swinton, in his history, "was really quite unnecessary, for the difficult obstacles against which he had to contend might have been easily turned by the right. This was actually done by Hancock, who, with slight loss, determined the issue." In the fight of June 28, which began the famous and terrible movement known as "The Seven Days," the enemy assailed the rear guard of Hancock's brigade, but their attack was handsomely repulsed. During the night march from White Oak Swamp to the James River, Hancock commanded the advance of the rear guard of the Sixth Corps, and it is but justice to his brigade to say that at the end of the seven days, during which time it was constantly exposed to assault by daylight and by night, it presented an unblenching front, and so far was it from demoralization that the next morning, when called upon, it was ready to move to the front of our lines and offer battle to the enemy.

The Sixth Corps, to which Gen. Hancock's brigade belonged, did not take part in Pope's operations, being occupied in the defence of Washington, until the opening of the Maryland campaign, which terminated at Antietam. We need not say that the situation of the army and that of the whole country at this time was appalling. Gen. Pope had been utterly discomfited, and the movement of Lee up the Potomac threatened either the invasion of Maryland or possibly the capture of the capital. Gen. McClellan, however, being restored to the command, the Army of the Potomac was speedily put in motion, and the process of reorganization was carried on during the march, this process being in no slight degree aided by the excellent example of the Sixth Corps. In the two actions which made up the battle of South Mountain Hancock's brigade actively participated, and, after the passes had been carried, the Sixth Corps, with Hancock's brigade in the advance, pressed forward, and arrived on the battle field of Antietam at about 10 o'clock on the morning of Sept. 17. It at once went into action to support the right wing of the army, which, under Gen. Sumner, had been badly shattered, and was now hard pressed by the Confederates. Hancock's brigade swept forward in quick time, and struck the enemy just as they were attacking some of our unsupported batteries—by which movement the latter were unquestionably saved, for the onset upon them was determined, and there was not a single regiment of infantry within supporting distance of them when Hancock came upon the field. Inasmuch as the force so promptly driven back from our batteries were Stonewall Jackson's men, the reader will infer that the work undertaken was no child's play.

The operations of the Sixth Corps at Antietam closed Gen. Hancock's official relation to the gallant brigade which he had uninterruptedly commanded from the time when he had organized and trained it in September, 1861. Although the transfer on the field of battle to a higher command by selection of the General-in-Chief was a high compliment, and placed the recipient in the prominent position of a General of Division, yet it was a trial to be separated from "Hancock's Brigade," as his old comrades had come to be known throughout the army and the country. "I shall never forget," says an eye-witness, "the first meeting I beheld of Gen. Hancock and his old brigade, after he had been transferred from it at Antietam. It occurred near Falmouth, Va., in the spring of 1863, when the Sixth Corps were marching past the camp of Hancock's division of the Second Corps during one of Gen. Burnside's movements. The brigade had halted for a rest near Gen. Hancock's headquarters, and sent word that they had come to see him. Upon his appearance, officers and men broke out into cheer after cheer. Caps were flung into the air, and every manifestation of pleasure was exhibited at the sight of the commander who had first taught them to be soldiers and first led them into battle."

In the battle of Fredericksburg, the Second Corps, to which Hancock's division belonged, was ordered by Gen. Burnside, then Commander-in-Chief, to storm the works of Marye's Heights, a formidable and, as it proved, impregnable position, defended by large masses of troops and many batteries of artillery. In the assault which followed Gen. Hancock led his division through such a fire as has rarely been encountered in warfare. The men forced their way with fearful loss to within fifteen or twenty paces of the fatal stone wall at the foot of the heights, and, although they found it impossible to carry the position, would not relinquish an inch of their ground, but held it under murderous discharges of musketry and cannon until late in the night, when they were relieved by fresh troops. Of this assault Greeley writes in his history: "Braver men never smiled at death than those who climbed Marye's Hill that fatal day." And again: "Never did men fight better, or die, alas! more fruitlessly than did most of Hancock's division," under that stone wall so strong that on it even artillery could make no impression. The loss of the Union army in the fight of Fredericksburg was 12,321 killed, wounded, and missing, and the fact that one-sixth of this entire loss fell upon Hancock's division of 5,000 men sufficiently attests what kind of work they did that day.

In the movement which culminated in the battle of Chancellorsville Gen. Hancock bore a conspicuous part. His division was closely and hotly engaged on May 2 and May 3, 1863, but successfully resisted all efforts of the enemy to break through its lines. The point occupied by Gen. Hancock in this action was one of the most exposed on the whole field, being constantly swept by the enemy's artillery, and his horse was shot under him. His division was the last to leave the field on the 3d, when our forces were ordered to withdraw to a new position in the rear—a most unfortunate movement on the part of the Commander-in-Chief, for it gave the enemy the roads leading to Fredericksburg, and resulted in the loss of Sedgwick's corps. This campaign terminated Gen. Hancock's career as a Division Commander. On June 25, while upon the march to Gettysburg, he was promoted to the permanent command of the Second Corps, by orders of the President of the United States.

It would be superfluous to enter upon any minute description of the decisive field of Gettysburg; but it is not to be forgotten that in this momentous struggle Gen. Hancock took not merely a prominent, but, we may add, without injustice to others, a controlling part. For it so happened that he selected the ground for the great conflict of the 2d and 3d July, and established that arrangement for the battle which was substantially maintained until the victory was won. On the morning of the 1st Gen. Hancock received a communication from Gen. Meade, announcing that Gen. Reynolds, who had commanded the left wing of the army, had been killed, or badly wounded, and directing Gen. Hancock to turn over his own corps, the Second, to Gen. Gibbon, and proceeding forthwith to the front to assume command of the Eleventh, First, and Third Corps. Gen. Hancock called Gen. Meade's attention to the fact that Gen. Howard and Gen. Sickles both outranked him. The Commander-in-Chief replied in substance that he could not help that, for this was an emergency in which he could not stand on etiquette, but must call on those he deemed most suited for the occasion. What followed Gen. Hancock's advent on the field is thus described by Swinton: "As the confused throng of fugitives was pouring through Gettysburg Gen. Hancock arrived on the ground. A most pressing duty was here forced upon him, for it was clear that if the flight of the shattered masses of the First and Eleventh Corps was not stayed, a great disaster must ensue. In such an emergency it is the personal qualities of a commander alone that tell. If, happily, there is in him that mysterious but potent magnetism that calms, subdues, and inspires, there results one of those sudden moral transformations that are among the marvels of the phenomena of battle. This quality Hancock possessed in a high degree, and his appearance soon restored order out of seemingly hopeless confusion." The lines having been established so as to deter the enemy from further advance, Gen. Hancock, on the evening of July 1, despatched an aide-de-camp to Gen. Meade, notifying the latter that he considered Gettysburg the place on which to fight the impending battle. To this message Gen. Meade replied, "I will order up the troops."

We shall not descant upon the incidents of the two succeeding days, during which two of the largest armies handled in modern warfare maintained a fierce and persistent struggle. No painting by word or pencil could convey an adequate conception of the stupendous features of this Titanic combat. Every part of the extended battle field witnessed some impressive act of the drama of destruction, but the culminating movement was the advance on the third day of Pickett's line of 18,000 men in a tremendous charge on the troops under Hancock's command. With the steady sweep of an ocean wave these brave Virginians passed forward, undeterred by the storm of shell and grape which opened huge gaps in their column, rushed up the side of Cemetery Ridge, and fairly plunged into Hancock's line. "But Hancock," wrote Swinton, "who had the day before turned the fortunes of battle in a similar emergency, again displayed those qualities of cool appreciation and quick action that had proved him one of the foremost of commanders on the field, and instantly drew together troops to make a bulwark against any further advance of the now exultant enemy." The magnificent charge was repulsed with awful slaughter, and it was in this moment of triumph that Hancock, dangerously wounded, was hurled from his horse. Raising himself on his elbow, so that he could see the field, the wounded General directed Major Mitchell to ride to Gen. Meade with the following message: "Tell Gen. Meade that the troops under my command have repulsed the enemy's assault, and that we have gained a great victory. The enemy is now flying in all directions in my front." Gen. Meade returned the following reply to this message: "Say to Gen. Hancock that I regret exceedingly that he is wounded, and that I thank him in the name of my country and for myself for the service he has rendered to-day." Describing the events that followed this conclusive engagement, Gen. Mulholland, an eye-witness, wrote: "On the morning of the 5th we found the enemy had gone, and then what a scene! I think the fact was first discovered by the troops on Culp's Hill, and what a cheer went up! A cheer that swelled into a roar, and was taken up by the boys on Cemetery Hill, rolled along the crest to Round Top, and then back again. Cheers for Hancock, who had stemmed the tide of defeat on the first day, and selected the ground on which this glorious work was done; who, on the second day, had again stopped the rush of rebel victory and restored our shattered lines; and who, on the third day, met and hurled back the last assault on which Lee's all was staked, and, there and then spilling his own blood, won the battle that was really the death blow of the rebellion."

Gen. Hancock, though but partially recovered from his wound, rejoined the Army of the Potomac in March, 1864, and resumed command of the Second Corps, which, after the reorganization of the Union forces, comprised eleven brigades. When this corps was reviewed a few days before the opening of the campaign, it numbered 30,000 men, the majority of them veterans, but in less than one year it lost by the casualties of war upward of 35,000, or more than the whole body which had paraded on this occasion. More than one-tenth of this loss was suffered in the battle of the Wilderness, where Hancock bore the brunt of the fight, and grave damage, amounting to more than 5,400 men, was also experienced by the Second Corps in the protracted and desperate contest at Spottsylvania Court House, where the enemy's entrenchments were taken, and the celebrated Stonewall Brigade was captured almost entire. None of the troops in the Army of the Potomac got much rest during these bloody days, but the record seems to show that Gen. Hancock was marching or assaulting without as much intermission as fell to the lot of some others. We may add that at Cold Harbor the official report showed the losses in the Second Corps to be over 3,000 men and officers, and this although only the two smallest divisions were actually engaged. A story was current in the army about this time that Gen. Hancock, upon being asked where the Second Corps was, replied that "it lay buried between the Rapidan and the James."

Gen. Hancock's wound, received at Gettysburg, continued to give him great trouble and annoyance during the campaign of 1864, and he was obliged to travel in an ambulance a great portion of the time. His habit on the march was to remain in his ambulance at the head of his column until in the vicinity of the enemy, when he mounted his horse and there remained until the fighting was over. While in front of the enemy's works at Petersburg in June, 1864, when the troops were constantly under fire, and the General was obliged to be mounted nearly all the time, both day and night, his wound became so inflamed and dangerous that he was compelled to relinquish command of his corps for a few days. But he did not leave the field, and speedily reassumed command, finding himself relieved by the discharge of a large fragment of bone from the suppurating wound. He continued to suffer from this wound during all the rest of the war.

In the battle at Ream's Station, Aug. 25, 1864, where, with 6,000 infantry and 2,000 cavalry, he encountered a hostile force of some 18,000, Gen. Hancock, for the first time during the war, experienced the bitterness of defeat. Never before had he seen his men fail to respond to the utmost when he had personally called upon them for a supreme effort. It was no small proof, however, of his military skill that at Ream's Station he was able to extricate himself from a position in which destruction seemed almost inevitable, and not only this, but that he should have inflicted such punishment upon the overwhelming forces of his adversary as to make the action almost a drawn battle, which is shown by the fact that the enemy left the field immediately after the Union forces retired. "Don't let this matter worry you," wrote Meade, "because you have given me every satisfaction." Yet Hancock could no longer conceal from himself that his once mighty corps—weakened by successive losses which literally amounted to tens of thousands—now retained but the shadow of its former weight and vigor. Struck to the heart by these new and dolorous impressions, he rode up to one of his staff, covered with dust and begrimed with powder and smoke, and placing his hand on the officer's shoulder said: "Colonel, I don't care to die, but I pray to my God I may never leave this field."

A well-informed and trustworthy writer in the *United Service Review*, summing up the history of the Second Corps, has shown that it embraced on its rolls at one time and another the names of upward of 200,000 men; that it lost 70,000 men in battle; that it captured nearly or quite a hundred colors, and as many guns as any other corps ever took from the enemy, including those captured at fortified cities and places. An additional and emphatic illustration of the terrible destruction in this section of the army may be cited in the fact that in the course of six months' fighting, between May and October, 1864, it lost no less than thirty-seven brigade commanders. We may add that this corps, during the period of Gen. Hancock's service with it, won the right to inscribe upon its banners the names of Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Po, Spottsylvania, North Anna, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Ream's Station, Boydton Road, and many other historic contests. Such a record as this will live, and to the officers and men of the Second Corps will be ascribed the honor of having served their country with unsurpassed fidelity and courage.

Toward the close of February, 1865, Gen. Hancock was assigned to the command of the Army of the Shenandoah, where he bent his energies to organizing a powerful force for a proposed advance in this direction. Without leaving any points uncovered, he presently found himself able to move with about 25,000 infantry, 3,000 cavalry, and a proper complement of artillery. It was arranged subsequently, and after the forcing of the lines at Petersburg, that if Lee fell back on Lynchburg, Hancock was to march his army against him at that point, and if Lee joined Joseph E. Johnston, Hancock's troops were to be sent by shipping, to coöperate with Sherman. The rapid march of events, however, rendered either of these movements unnecessary, and the only duty remaining to Gen. Hancock in the "Valley" was to force the surrender and receive the parole of the partisan troops in that region.

On April 22, just a week after President Lincoln's assassination, orders were issued at Washington, transferring Gen. Hancock's headquarters to that city, and two days after his arrival there he received explicit instructions from the War Office, these being the orders which led to what official connection Gen. Hancock had with the trial of the conspirators against the President. The simple facts concerning this matter are that although Gen. Hancock was in Washington in command of the Middle Military Division during the trial and execution of the prisoners charged with the assassination of President Lincoln, he was not a member of the military commission which tried Mrs. Surratt, neither had he anything whatever to do with her trial, nor does any responsibility rest on him for the finding of the court, or for the sentence imposed. Thus much of statement in regard to this matter will, perhaps, seem pertinent enough in view of certain interested and unfounded accusations.

Within a few months after the conclusion of the war Gen. Hancock was appointed to the command of the Middle Military Department, and established his headquarters at Baltimore. This city, we need not say, had been throughout the rebellion profoundly disaffected, but so impartially and judiciously did Gen. Hancock administer the affairs of his command that much of this feeling was soon removed. A like salutary result followed his transfer to the Department of Missouri, where, so late as August, 1866, the public peace was threatened by the combative tendencies of the friends of secession. It was at this epoch, and under the peculiar difficulties which surrounded him, both in Maryland and in Missouri, that Gen. Hancock began to be noted for the unflinching adherence to the essence of constitutional law, which continued to characterize his connection with administrative authority thereafter. It was his efficient and benign influence in these fields of duty which led to his appointment in September, 1867, to the command of the Fifth Military District, comprising the States of Louisiana and Texas. Before setting out for New Orleans he was ordered to Washington, where he remained for some days in conference with the national authorities concerning the new and difficult service to which he had been deputed. He reached the headquarters of his district toward the close of November, having meanwhile carefully considered the subject of the reconstruction of the Southern States under the acts passed by Congress, and having fully determined upon his own duty in the premises.

It will be remembered that previous to the time Gen. Hancock assumed command at New Orleans, Congress had parcelled out the South into a number of military districts, or satrapies as they were called, and had appointed over each a military governor clothed with despotic powers. Under the principles of reconstruction laid down by the Federal Legislature, Gen. Hancock had now become the absolute ruler of two great States, having authority to remove civil magistrates and suppress the local tribunals, to establish military commissions, and suspend the State laws. Such action on the part of Congress seemed to be based on the assumption that the Southern people had forfeited all their constitutional liberties, and were not entitled to any of the civil rights of freemen. On such a foundation, and no other, were enacted the harsh statutes which were generally enforced throughout the South; but fortunately a large discretion was reserved to the military commanders, of which Gen. Hancock availed himself to give the most generous and merciful interpretation to these laws. It was on the steamboat which conveyed him to New Orleans that he drew up the military order which has since become celebrated as "Order Number 40," and in which he proclaimed that the Constitution had not perished amid the clash of arms, but was still the fundamental law of the whole land, and the palladium of the civil rights of all the people.

"In war," ran this magnanimous and admirable document, "it is indispensable to repel force by force, to overthrow and destroy opposition to lawful authority. But when insurrectionary force has been overthrown and peace established, and the civil authorities are ready and willing to perform their duties, the military power should cease to lead and the civil administration should resume its natural and rightful dominion. Solemnly impressed with these views, the General announces that the great principles of American liberty are still the inheritance of this people, and ever should be. The right of trial by jury, the habeas corpus, the liberty of the press, the freedom of speech, the natural rights of persons, and the rights of property must be preserved." It was of this order, surely the most remarkable ever penned by a hand invested with autocratic power, that Judge Black wrote: "Yours is the most distinct and emphatic recognition which the principles of American liberty have received at the hands of any high officer in a Southern command. It has the very ring of the Revolutionary metal. Washington never said a thing in better taste, or at a better time. It will prove to all men that peace hath her victories not less renowned than those of war. I congratulate you," he continued, "not because it will make you the most popular man in America, for I dare say you care nothing about that, but because it will give you, through all time, the solid reputation of a true patriot and a sincere lover of your country, of its laws, and of its government."

The powers at Washington were not satisfied with the quiet, conservative, orderly, and energetic manner in which Hancock was administering the government of the district under his command, or rather permitting the civil authorities to administer it. This was not at all according to their programme of reconstruction, and when they learned, moreover, that his wise and conciliatory course was winning him golden opinions—not only from the people placed under his control, but from all right-judging persons the country over—they determined upon his removal. The measures taken to this end were sufficiently characteristic. Gen. Garfield, the Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives, introduced a bill to reduce the number of Major-Generals in the army, with the avowed purpose of ousting Gen. Hancock. The bill, however, was never pressed to a passage, those friendly to it fearing that it would excite a public demonstration in favor of the persecuted officer. A safer method was adopted, which was to effect, by petty and humiliating interference with Gen. Hancock's jurisdiction and administration in the Fifth Military District, the purpose which his enemies felt unable to accomplish by legitimate means. A succession of harassing acts followed, shrewdly calculated to provoke a resignation. Under such pressure Gen. Hancock wrote to a friend in Congress: "I hope to be relieved here soon. The President is no longer able to protect me, so that I may expect one humiliation after another, until I am forced to resign. I am prepared for any event. Nothing can intimidate me from doing what I believe to be honest and right." In March, 1868, he was, at his own request, relieved of his command at New Orleans.

No review, however summary, of Gen. Hancock's law-observing and patriotic record would be complete without a glance at the convictions declared in the now famous letter to Gen. Sherman, written at the most critical juncture of the disputed election of 1876. "The army," wrote Gen. Hancock, "should have nothing to do with the selection or inauguration of Presidents. The people elect the President. We of the army have only to obey his mandates, and are protected in so doing only so far as they may be lawful. Our commissions express that." And again: "Our system does not provide that one President should inaugurate another. There might be danger in that, and it was studiously left out of the charter." Elsewhere he observes in the same letter: "I was not in favor of the military action in South Carolina, and if Gen. Ruger had telegraphed to me or asked for advice, I would have advised him not, under any circumstances, to allow himself or his troops to determine who were the lawful members of a State Legislature. It is no business of the army to enter upon such questions." And finally he says: "The army is laboring under disadvantages, and has been used unlawfully at times in the judgment of the people (in mine certainly), and we have lost a great deal of the kindly feeling which the community at large once felt for us. It is time to stop and unload. * * * Our regular army has little hold upon the affections of the people of to-day, and its superior officers should certainly, as far as lies in their power, legally, and with righteous intent, aim to defend the right, which to us is the law." Such remarks one of the biographers, is the tenor of the private letter written from Carondelet, Mo., in December, 1876; a letter which lay for four years silent, to speak at last in loud reply to whispered slanders and contemptuous reflection, with such force of righteous purpose and with such dignity of manly power and knowledge as to send hurling back among the swarm of defamers their paper pellets of detraction, changed into fiery missiles of shaming and condemnation.

Of the two biographies mentioned in the beginning of this article, that for which we are indebted to the joint labors of Dr. Junkin and Mr. Norton is the more carefully executed, from a literary point of view, and it is this from which we have the more copiously drawn. Neither work, however, aims at anything more than a simple, straightforward, lucid statement of undisputed facts. Each is, for the most part, free from the cheap display of garish rhetoric in which the authors of campaign biographies are so apt to indulge. In this case the writers seem to have felt that the arts of the advocate and the apologist would be misplaced and impertinent, seeing that there was nothing to palliate, to distort, or to suppress. Here was the record of a life too large, too useful, and too loyal to need magniloquent portrayal, whose massive and noble outlines could most fittingly be traced in homely and honest prose.

M. W. H.

POETRY OF THE PERIOD.

Friend and Foe.

Crowd closer, Death, thou best-beloved friend!
Keep within hailing distance all the day;
I trust in thee to work my foe dismay
Who waits for me down near the journey's end.
My cursed foe in whom all evils blend,
My coward foe, who shuns fair open strife,
But one by one steals all the joys of life
And saps the blood, till too weak to defend.
The reveller's hand grows palsied; and the mind
Fills all its empty chambers with distrust,
And the dull brains' slow hinges creak with rust
And cavernous eyes sink deeper and grow blind.
Rather than leave me to old age my foe,
Even in my joy to-day, Death, strike the blow.

ELLA WHEELER.

Song.

From the Independent.

Heart-breaks and songs,
Love leaves as these;
No man prolongs
Love's joy and peace.

Sooner or late
All things go by;
Passions abate,
Pains, even, die.

All senses fail;
No sweet thing is;
Thin lips and pale
Death comes to kiss.

Summer was fair
If it was fleet;
Cold now the air,
No thing is sweet.

Autumn came soon;
How his winds wailed
Where, in our June,
Soft airs prevailed.

Faint is the sun,
Roses are dead;
Lingers not one,
Just for your head.

Heart-breaks and songs,
Love, leave us these!
No man prolongs
Love's joy and peace.

PHILIP BOURKE MARSTON.

Read to Sleep.

From the Church Union.

For threescore years and ten,
Burdened with care and woe,
She has travelled the weary ways of men:
She is tired, and wants to go.

So musing, one afternoon,
With knitting upon her lap,
She hears at her door a drift of tune,
And a quick, familiar tap.

In flashes a child's fresh face,
And her bird like voice sounds gay,
As she asks, "Shall I find you a pretty place,
And read you a Psalm to-day?"

"Aye, read me a Psalm—'The Lord
Is my Shepherd'—soft, not fast;
Then turn the leaves of the Holy Word
Till you come to the very last—

"Where it tells of the wondrous walls
Of jacinth and sapphire stone,
And the shine of the crystal light that falls
In rainbows about the throne;

"Where never are any tears—
You see how the verse so saith—
Nor pain nor crying through all God's years,
Nor hunger, nor cold, nor death;

"Of the city whose streets are gold;
Ah! here it is not my share
One single piece in my hands to hold,
But my feet shall tread on it there!

"Yes, read it all; it lifts
My soul up into the light,
And I look straight through the leaden rifts,
To the land where there's no more night!"

Rising, she nearer stepped—
How easy it all had been!
The gates had unclosed as the sleeper slept
And an angel had drawn her in.

MARGARET J. PRESTON.

The Sea.

From the Sunday Republican.

To-day the great sea lies at rest—
No troubled dreams stir his broad breast—
A giant stretched from east to west.

O wild, tumultuous, restless sea,
What mighty spirit moveth thee?
Thou heaving, surging mystery!

The tides are out, the white sands lie
Along the beach; serene on high,
The moon rides through a cloudless sky.

A great peace broods o'er sea and land;
It may be peace lies near at hand,
Through all the storms that vex life's strand.

A cool wind blows from out the west;
In the new dawn we lie at rest,
No more with bitter fears oppressed.

FRANCES L. GARDNER.

A Maiden's Message.

From Good Words.

O wind, that wanderest o'er hill and vale and sea,
Blow round the home where he sleeps peacefully,
And breath upon his brow a kiss from me.

O golden maiden moon, so calm and pure and bright,
Shed round and o'er him thy soft, tender streams of light;
Tell him how well I love him—tell him so to-night.

O stars all silvery bright, set on that deep, still blue,
Stars that are watching o'er us both the long night through,
Tell him my love for him is pure like you—and true.

O great, grand, snow white clouds, slow drifting o'er the sky,
Bear to his heart a message as ye pass him by,
Tell him my love would teach me how to do—or die.

O great wide sea, on which the night winds blow,
Sing in his ears thy music calm and slow,
Sing to his heart I love him, sing it soft and low.

O tiny, laughing ripples, dancing on the shore,
O mighty ocean waves, thundering your ceaseless roar,
Tell him I love him so well I could not love him more!

O moon and stars, O clouds and deep, blue, sunny sea,
And restless, wandering winds, bear him these words from me,
"My own dear love, I love thee well—and constantly."

The Little Ones.

From the Boston Transcript.

Oh! when at dawn the children wake,
And patter up and down the stairs,
The flowers and leaves a glory take,
The rosy light a splendor shares,
That nevermore these eyes would see,
If my sweet ones were gone from me.

And when at eve they watch and wait,
To fold me in their arms so white,
My burdens, whether small or great,
Are charmed away by calm delight;
And, shutting out the world, I live
The purest moments life can give.

But when at bedtime round me kneel
Wee, tender, loving, white-robed forms,
With hands upraised in fond appeal—
Ah! then are hushed life's weary storms;
And Heaven seems very near to me,
With my sweet darlings round my knee!

Two Sat Down.

From the Indianapolis Herald.

Two sat down in the morning time,
One to sing and one to spin.
All men listened to the song sublime,
But no one listened to the dull wheel's din.

The singer she sat in a pleasant nook,
And sang of a life that was fair and sweet,
While the spinner sat with steadfast look,
Busily plying her hands and feet.

The singer sang on with a rose in her hair,
And all men listened to her sweet tone;
And the spinner spun on with a dull despair
Down in her heart as she sat alone.

But lo! on the morrow no one said
Aught of the singer or what she sang.
Men were saying, "Behold this thread!"
And loud the praise of the spinner rang.

The world has forgotten the singer's name—
Her rose is faded, her songs are old;
But far o'er the ocean the spinner's fame
Yet is blazoned in lines of gold.

ELLA WHEELER.

The Smith's Song.

From the London Spectator.

Ding dong, diddlium! the big sledge is swinging,
Ding dong, diddlium! the little hammer's ringing,
Ding dong, diddlium! set the bellows snoring,
Ding dong, diddlium! the red fire is roaring.

Hush, boys, and hark, boys, I hear a pair eloping,
Hush, boys, and hark, boys, they'll go free, I'm hoping!
Ding dong, diddlium! I hear a shoe clinking,
Ding dong, diddlium! there's need of nails, I'm thinking.

"For heaven's sake, a shoe, smith!" "Your honor, here, 'tis ready."
"Whoa, mare, and so, mare, and steady, girl, steady!"
Ding dong, diddlium! off goes the carriage,
Ding dong, diddlium! good luck be with the marriage!

ALFRED PERCEVAL GRAVES.

Nantucket.

From the Boston Transcript.

The poet may sing of the Old Oaken Bucket,
And all the loved spots that his infancy knew,
But dearer to me are the charms of Nantucket,
When fond recollection recalls them to view.
The ship channel lanes that need skippers and soundings,
Where they go to no "loot" or land lubber can tell;
The crowded Main street, with its varied surroundings,
And even the sound of the town crier's bell;
The dulcet-toned Billy, the tender-voiced Billy,
The Billy who owns that mellifluous bell.

Whatever disasters occur on the mainland,
If savings banks break, or if burglars annoy,
If murderers die happy, or, worse still, get pardoned,
If floods overcome, or if fires destroy—
The peaceful Nantucketer needs no newspaper
With headlines and captions the story to tell;
Secure in their tight little homes on the island,
They wait for the sound of the town crier's bell;
The dulcet-toned Billy, the tender-voiced Billy,
The Billy who owns that mellifluous bell.

Should a schooner, bark rigged, from the Cape or New Bedford,
Anchor off the straight wharf with a cargo of fruit,
Sweet potatoes and peaches, bananas and peanuts,
Green apples and lemons, with prices to suit,
How quickly doth Billy, the peripatetic,
Make haste through the island the tidings to tell;
How quickly he touches a chord sympathetic,
When he heralds the fact with his brass-throated bell.
The dulcet-toned Billy, the tender-voiced Billy,
The Billy who owns that mellifluous bell.

But when a great crisis arrives, and a corner
Is created in beef by some sharp financier,
And prices go up, and a broker still sharper
Sees his chance and goes in with a wise auctioneer,
Then Billy, twice armed with his bell and his trumpet,
Dissonant both in their cadence and swell,
Forecasts the corned beef to be thrown on the market,
And announces its advent by ringing his bell.
The dulcet-toned Billy, the tender-voiced Billy,
The Billy who owns that mellifluous bell.

I am getting in years and I'm growing splenetic,
I no longer take baths at the clean shore or cliff,
Blue fishing I hate, and squantums grow tedious,
And all that I want of the South Shore's a sniff.
But the dear old antique and time-honored Nantucket,
How dearly I love it no mortal can tell—
Its lanes, and its sand, and its fish, and its auctions
Its Billy, and even, yes, even his bell:
The dulcet-toned Billy, the tender-voiced Billy,
The Billy who owns that mellifluous bell.

OFF ISLANDER.

BENEDICT ARNOLD AT SARATOGA.

Who was it that fought and won the first battle of Saratoga, one of the most splendid and decisive triumphs of the colonial forces during the Revolutionary war? This question has been debated for a century, but it now seems to be conclusively settled by the new evidence collected and published in the current number of the *United Service Review*. Notwithstanding the adverse opinion of Bancroft and some other writers, it will henceforward be acknowledged by candid reviewers of all the testimony in the case that Benedict Arnold, and no other, was the hero of Stillwater.

Public interest has been lately reawakened in this subject by a painstaking, dispassionate memoir of Benedict Arnold, in which the biographer undertook to tell the whole truth about a remarkable man, setting forth the magnitude and brilliancy of his early services, while refraining from any attempt to palliate the heinous offence which made him in his later years an object of execration. In the course of that work the author, Mr. Isaac N. Arnold, had occasion to examine the accounts of the engagement which took place near Stillwater on Sept. 19, 1777, and became convinced that Bancroft's description of that action was strangely erroneous. The historian, speaking of that battle, had stated that "Arnold was not on the field," whereas the writer of the biography affirmed, on the evidence of participants and eye-witnesses, that Arnold was not only present, but personally directed the whole action, and was, therefore, in the strictest sense, the organizer and the author of the victory. There seems to have been a general impression on the part of his critics and readers that Mr. I. N. Arnold had made out his case, but this was not the opinion of Mr. John Austin Stevens, who in the *Magazine of American History* reiterated Bancroft's assertion. Mr. Stevens failed to support his view by any substantial proof; but his article had the useful result of provoking the rejoinder from Mr. Arnold in the *United Service Review*, in which the current error is traced to a discreditable origin, and in which, as we have said, new evidence of a most convincing character is, for the first time, brought to light.

It appears that the only piece of explicit, unequivocal evidence for Bancroft's charge that Arnold took no part in the battle of Stillwater is a statement by Gen. Wilkinson, quoted in a foot note to the second edition of Marshall's "Life of Washington." "The accounts of the day [written before Arnold's treason] stated," writes Marshall, "that the Americans were commanded by Gen. Arnold, but Gen. Wilkinson says that no general officer was on the field." It will be observed that Marshall gives both stories, and leaves the reader to draw his own conclusion; for he could not have been ignorant that Wilkinson, being on Gates's staff, shared his commander's jealousy and hatred of Arnold, and, further, that the assertion just cited was not made until more than thirty years after the battle. In view of the overwhelming testimony now forthcoming, there seems to be no doubt that this man Wilkinson wilfully and deliberately falsified the fact, and for the dastardly purpose of stealing the credit of a great action from one whose heroism he supposed was permanently obscured and forgotten in the shadow of his subsequent crime.

The first new witness now brought forward is Gen. William Hull, who, on the 19th of September, 1777, was Major of a Massachusetts regiment. Speaking of the engagement at Stillwater, Gen. Hull says: "Burgoyne advanced toward the left wing of the American lines, when Morgan was compelled to retreat. But Morgan was soon reënforced by a number of regiments from the left wing of the army, *commanded by Gen. Arnold*." And again Gen. Hull states: "As soon as the action had recommenced, Gen. Arnold rode to the ground which was occupied by the guard of Major Hull." Calling the officers around him, and inquiring what number of men were at that post, "Gen. Arnold then said that three hundred volunteers, to be commanded by a field officer, must immediately reënforce the troops which were engaged." The next witness is Capt. Ebenezer Wakefield, who left in manuscript a detailed narrative of the battle, whose principal movements he witnessed, as being an officer in Dearborn's light infantry, which took a conspicuous part in the engagement. "None were more demonstrative," writes Wakefield, "than the men of our regiment in expressing their admiration for Arnold after the battle of the 19th of September, and in evincing that marked preference which maddened Gates and infuriated his Adjutant-General, Wilkinson. I shall never forget," he continues, "the opening scene of the first day's conflict. Nothing could exceed the bravery of Arnold on this occasion; he seemed the very genius of war, and, knowing he was meeting the brunt of the battle, he seemed inspired with the fury of a demon." And again: "Arnold was not only the hero of the field, but he had won the admiration of the whole army, whereas up to this time Gen. Gates had acted only as a figurehead, having taken no part in the engagement of the 19th." Next we find quoted the affirmance of Samuel Poppleton, who was in the battle of Stillwater, and who said: "Arnold, Poor, and Morgan, with less than three thousand men, sustained the unequal contest during that whole day. Arnold was conspicuous in the fight. If our lines weakened anywhere he discovered it, and strengthened them, directing in person the movements of the troops, and infusing into them his own energy and confidence of success." To the same effect is the testimony of the Rev. Hezekiah Smith, who was chaplain to Nixon's regiment in 1777. His diary and letters contain a full account of the battle of Stillwater, and make Arnold the hero of the day. All these statements are corroborated by Ezra Buel, a guide to the American army in the battle of Sept. 19, and who, going over the scene of the engagement years after with William Wirt, pointed out the positions of Arnold and Morgan on the field, and went on to describe the operations under Arnold's leadership. It appears, too, that in Von Elking's journals and letters of the German troops, published some years ago at Hanover, the statement is made, in reference to the first battle of Saratoga, that "they (the Americans) were led by Gen. Arnold." Gen. Riedesel makes the same assertion, and Mr. Arnold pointedly suggests that the Germans had some reason to know who led the troops they were engaged with on that occasion.

Such is the concurrent and cumulative testimony collected by Mr. Arnold since the publication of his memoir. It powerfully fortifies his assertion that but for the presence of the subject of his biography at Stillwater, Gen. Burgoyne might have marched into Albany a victor. The writer's object in reviewing Mr. Bancroft's hasty judgment and marshalling in support of his own view this array of eye-witnesses is not, as has been charged, to regild a broken idol, but to vindicate the truth of history. He does not seek for a moment to extenuate the crime of treason; he admits that the plot to surrender West Point forms one of the blackest pages of American history; but he avers with equal confidence that among the ablest and most gallant soldiers of the Revolution, whenever and wherever the whole truth is told touching the record of his early time will appear the name of Benedict Arnold.

Extracting Gold from Water.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 11.—A despatch from Calistoga, Napa County, says: "An excitement has existed in this vicinity for the past fortnight over a report that the Hot Springs at this place carry [illegible] of gold in solution. A. C. Tichenor, who recently bought the Hot Springs Hotel property, has been at work for the past two weeks extracting gold from the water by a process known only to himself. [illegible] ments thus far have proved."

African Explorers Attacked.

LONDON, Sept. 11.—News has been received from the French expedition which started [illegible] on the 4th of April last under Capt. [illegible] doctors, two Lieutenants, and a number of [illegible] On the 11th of May, near the village of [illegible] country, the expedition was attacked by [illegible] natives. After several hours fighting [illegible] tired with the loss of fourteen killed and [illegible] wounded. All the baggage was lost. The expedition was [illegible] and started again by another route.